

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 DHA-02 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1952

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 20275

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CN

SUBJECT: COMORO ISLANDS

REF: (A) STATE 184265 (B) PARIS 19005

1. EMBOFF WAS BRIEFED INFORMALLY ON COMORO ISLANDS SITUATION AUGUST 5 BY QUAI DESK OFFICER BERTRAND, WHO REFLECTED TRANSPARENT FRENCH PLEASURE WITH NEW PRO-PARIS REGIME IN MORONI. BERTRAND SAID FRANCE HAS NOT TAKEN ANY OFFICIAL ACTION RECOGNIZING REMOVAL OF ABDALLAH FROM OFFICE. IN FACT, MOST RECENT OFFICIAL GOF ACTION WAS JULY 9 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS COMMUNIQUE WHICH "TOOK NOTE" OF COMORO ISLANDS INDEPENDENCE DECISION, WITHOUT EXPLICITLY CONFERRING RECOGNITION, PER REFTEL B. BERTRAND SUGGESTED WE AWAIT AUGUST 6 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS COMMUNIQUE WHICH MAY REFER TO THIS SUBJECT.

2. REGARDING QUESTION B IN REFTEL A, BERTRAND SAID GOF HAS NOT HAD TO RECONSIDER QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE SINCE NEW GOVERNMENT EXPLICITLY FAVORS INDEPENDENCE AND HAS SHOWN NO INTEREST IN OPPOSING IT. HE SAID GOF HAVING TAKEN NOTE OF INDEPENDENCE DECISION JULY 9 CONSIDERS THIS TO BE AN ACCEPTED FACT FROM WHICH THERE IS NO WAY BACK. HE DREW OUR ATTENTION TO RE-  
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PORTS IN "LE MONDE" DATED AUGUST 5 AND 6-7, ACCORDING

TO WHICH NEW REGIME INTENDS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS  
WITH FRANCE ON BASIS OF EQUALITY BETWEEN SOVEREIGN  
STATES.

3. BERTRAND REMINDED US PER REF B THAT NO MOVEMENT  
HAD BEEN MADE TOWARDS CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN MORONI  
AND PARIS ABOUT TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY UNDER ABDALLAH  
BECAUSE HE REFUSED TO ACCEPT FRENCH LAW OF JUNE 30  
REGARDING COMORO INDEPENDENCE)AS BASIS FOR CONTACTS.  
BERTRAND SAID NEW REGIME APPARENTLY ACCEPTS JUNE 30  
LAW AND, THEREFORE, RELATIONS BETWEEN PARIS AND MORONI  
SHOULD SOON BE RUNNING SMOOTHLY. SPECIFICALLY, NEW  
REGIME IS REPORTEDLY PREPARED TO WORK OUT FEDERAL-  
TYPE CONSTITUTION WHICH MIGHT SATISFY DEMANDS OF  
MAYOTTE ; THIS COULD LEAD TO PRESERVATION OF COMORO  
UNITY WHILE BEING IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOF'S JUNE 30  
INDEPENDENCE LAW.

4. BERTRAND REMINDED US THAT QUAI HAS NOT YET TAKEN  
OVER COMORO DOSSIER, WHICH STILL HELD BY SECRETARY  
OF STATE FOR OVERSEAS TERRITORIES, OLIVIER STIRN.  
BERTRAND BEMOANED INTERVIEW STIRN GAVE ON FRENCH  
TELEVISION AUGUST 4 IMMEDIATELY AFTER RETURNING FROM  
FRENCH GUIANA STIRN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING "THE  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE THREE ISLANDS ARE A PURELY  
COMORO MATTER AND DO NOT INTEREST THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT."  
BERTRAND SAID THAT THIS REFERENCE TO THREE OF THE FOUR  
COMORO ISLANDS, OBVIOUSLY EXCLUDING MAYOTTE,  
WAS UNFORTUNATE AND SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS GOF POSITION.  
GAMMON

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## Message Attributes

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